

November 2, 1962

Dr. Tetsuo Iino
National Institute of Genetics
Mitsima, Shizuoka-ken
Japan

Dear Tetsuo:

A brief interim reply to yours of the 22nd. Both of the DNA preparations from Salmonella are rather unusual in showing a very high degree of hyperchromicity. The increase in optical density is at least two on heating, and even this was still rising within the bounds of the experiment. Charles Stewart is now running a hydrolysis to be able to compare the full chromicity of the nucleotides compared to the original nucleic acid. This does suggest that there is something suspicious about the nucleic acid preparation itself, although the finding may prove to be a very interesting one in itself. There is a little difference in the hyperchromicity of the two preparations which would be a sufficient explanation of the difference in density between them. The suspicion now is that the preparations are in some unusual state of aggregation, but whether this is an artifact or an important biological finding would be very difficult to say without a great deal more work. In any case, it would be most useful to pursue the point you mention of the difference in sensitivity to lysozyme and lauryl sulphate of the two phases.

I am sorry the 5,000 yen (I thought it was just 4,000) is a matter of any concern to you, and I hope you will not worry about it. However, I could ask you to get one thing for me, namely, if they are available, one or two neutral density filters that can be put on the Zoom 8 EEE camera under conditions when the brightness of illumination exceeds the range of response of the aperture control. This does not require any particular attention, and I would not, for example, care about having it airmailed. However, it is nice to know that I have an investment abroad and will keep in mind that there is a Japanese fund. I would rather think that there will be a possibility of retrieving it when I can again visit Japan myself.

It was very good to see you here; I am only sorry that I was so busy that I could not spend more time than I did with you, but in any case it was a pleasant sojourn.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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